

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A computer system as defined in claim 24, further comprising:

an operating system;

~~a power switch, operation of which, when enabled, causes a power off of the computer system; and~~

and wherein a switch the mask connected to the power switch to can enable and disable the power-off of the computer system without intervention by the operating system.

Claims 2-3: Cancelled.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A computer system as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the operating system is incapable of causing the computer system to power off; and

the ~~switch~~-mask, when enabling the power-off, causes the computer system to power off in response to operation of the ~~power~~-switch.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A computer system as defined in claim 4, ~~further comprising:~~

~~———— a power control hardware connected to the switch mask and capable of causing the computer system to power off;~~

~~———— and wherein:~~

the operating system is incapable of operating the power controller ~~control hardware~~ to cause the computer system to power off; and

the ~~switch~~-mask, when enabling the power-off, is capable of causing

the power controller control hardware to cause the computer system to power off in response to operation of the ~~power-switch~~.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A computer system as defined in claim 5, wherein:

the power controller control hardware comprises an ACPI-compliant hardware; and

the operating system comprises a non-ACPI-compliant operating system.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A computer system as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the operating system is capable of causing the computer system to power off upon operation of the ~~power-switch~~; and

the ~~switch-mask~~, when disabling the power-off, prevents the power-off of the computer system.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A computer system as defined in claim 7, further comprising:

~~\_\_\_\_\_ a power control hardware connected to the switch mask and capable of causing the computer system to power off;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ and wherein:~~

the operating system is capable of operating the power controller control hardware to cause the computer system to power off upon operation of the ~~power-switch~~; and

the ~~switch-mask~~, when disabling the power-off, prevents the power controller control hardware from powering off the computer system.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A computer system as defined in claim 8, wherein:

the power controller control hardware comprises an ACPI-compliant hardware; and

the operating system comprises an ACPI-compliant operating system.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A computer system as defined in claim 25,  
further comprising:

an operating system means;

~~\_\_\_\_\_ a means for generating a power-off signal;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ a means for powering off the computer system in response to the  
power-off signal; and~~

~~and wherein the asserting a means for masking the power-off signal,  
independent of the operating system means, can to enable and disable the power-  
down of the computer system off signal from being supplied to the powering off  
means.~~

Claim 11: Cancelled.

Claim 12 (Original): A computer system as defined in claim 10, wherein:  
the powering off means is ACPI-compliant.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A power switch mask for use in a computer  
system, comprising:

an input for a power-off signal;

~~an a first output for an immediate power-off signal at which the  
immediate power-off a first signal is supplied in response to as long as the power-off  
signal is received when immediate power-off is enabled, the immediate power-off  
first signal not being supplied when immediate power-off is disabled, momentary  
output of the first signal capable of causing a graceful power-down of the computer  
system, and continuous output of the first signal for a delay time period capable of  
causing an immediate power-down of the computer system; and~~

~~an a second output for a delayed power-off signal at which the delayed  
power-off a second signal is supplied in response to continuous input of the power-  
off signal for a the delay period of time when power-off is disabled and delayed  
power-off an override is enabled, the delayed power-off second signal not being  
supplied when delayed power-off the override is disabled, output of the second  
signal capable of causing the immediate power-down of the computer system.~~

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A power switch mask for use in a computer system, comprising:

a means for generating ~~an immediate power-off first~~ signal in response to receiving a power-off signal while receiving ~~an immediate a power-off enabled~~ signal, the ~~immediate power-off first~~ signal not being generated in response to receiving the power-off signal while not receiving the ~~immediate power-off enabled~~ signal, momentary generation of the first signal capable of causing a graceful power-down of the computer system, and continuous generation of the first signal for a delay time period capable of causing an immediate power-down of the computer system; and

a means for generating a ~~delayed power-off second~~ signal in response to receiving the power-off signal continuously during ~~a the~~ delay time period while receiving a ~~delayed power-off an override~~ enabled signal and not receiving the power-off enabled signal, the ~~delayed power-off second~~ signal not being generated in response to receiving the power-off signal while not receiving the ~~delayed power-off override~~ enabled signal, generation of the second signal capable of causing the immediate power-down of the computer system.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method for controlling powering off of a computer system, comprising:

setting a switch mask to one of two power-off modes comprising power-off enabled and power-off disabled;

if power-off is disabled, setting the switch mask to one of two override modes comprising override enabled and override disabled;

generating a power-off signal indicating a desire to power off down the computer system;

intercepting the power-off signal by the switch mask;

responding to the power-off signal according to the setting settings of the switch mask ~~without intervention by an operating system of the computer system;~~

when the switch mask is set to power-off enabled, powering off down  
the computer system in response to the power-off signal; and

when the switch mask is set to power-off disabled and override  
disabled, preventing powering off down the computer system in response to the  
power-off signal; and

when the switch mask is set to power-off disabled and override  
enabled, powering down the computer system in response to the power-off signal.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method as defined in claim 15, wherein:  
~~the two aforementioned power-off modes comprise immediate power-~~  
~~off modes comprising immediate power-off enabled and immediate power-off~~  
~~disabled;~~

~~and further comprising:~~

~~setting the switch mask to one of two delayed power-off modes~~  
~~comprising delayed power-off enabled and delayed power-off disabled; and~~

~~responding to the power-off signal according to the settings immediate~~  
~~power-off mode setting and the delayed power-off mode setting of the switch mask~~  
without intervention by the operating system of the computer system.

Claim 17: Cancelled.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method as defined in claim ~~17~~ 28, wherein:  
the power control hardware controller is ACPI-compliant.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method as defined in claim 18, ~~wherein~~  
further comprising:

the an operating system that is not ACPI-compliant.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A method as defined in claim 18, further  
comprising wherein:

the an operating system that is ACPI-compliant.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A method for controlling powering off of a  
computer system, comprising:

generating a power-off signal;

intercepting the power-off signal by a switch mask;  
generating a masked power-off signal by the switch mask  
corresponding to the power-off signal when power-off is enabled in the switch mask;  
and

preventing generation of the masked power-off signal when power-off is disabled in the switch mask;

powering off the computer system in response to the masked power-off signal without intervention by an operating system of the computer system;

generating an override signal by the switch mask when power-off is disabled, an override is enabled and the power-off signal is generated continuously for a delay period of time; and

powering off the computer system in response to the override signal.

Claims 22-23: Cancelled.

Claim 24 (New): A computer system comprising:

a switch that generates a power-off signal;

a mask connected to the switch, and which: asserts a first signal in response to the power-off signal when power-off is enabled through the mask, prevents assertion of the first signal when power-off is disabled, and asserts a second signal in response to continuous generation of the power-off signal for a delay period when power-off is disabled and an override is enabled through the mask; and

a power controller connected to the mask, wherein: the first signal asserted momentarily at a first input thereof initiates a graceful power-down of the computer system, the first signal asserted continuously for the delay period initiates an immediate power-down, and the second signal received at a second input initiates the immediate power-down.

Claim 25 (New): A computer system comprising:

a means for generating a power-off signal;

a means, connected to the generating means, for asserting a first

signal in response to the power-off signal when power-off is enabled, for preventing assertion of the first signal when power-off is disabled, and for asserting a second signal in response to continuous generation of the power-off signal for a delay period when power-off is disabled and an override is enabled; and

a means, connected to the asserting means, for initiating a graceful power-down of the computer system when the first signal is asserted momentarily at a first input thereof, for initiating an immediate power-down when the first signal is asserted continuously for the delay period, and for initiating the immediate power-down when the second signal is received at a second input.

Claim 26 (New): A method as defined in claim 15, wherein:

when the switch mask is set to power-off disabled and override enabled, the powering down of the computer system is in response to the power-off signal being generating continuously for a delay period of time.

Claim 27 (New): A method as defined in claim 15, wherein:

when the switch mask is set to power-off enabled, the powering down of the computer system is caused by supplying a first signal from the switch mask to a power controller;

when the switch mask is set to power-off disabled and override disabled, the preventing of the powering down of the computer system in response to the power-off signal involves preventing the supplying of the first signal to the power controller; and

when the switch mask is set to power-off disabled and override enabled, the powering down of the computer system is caused by supplying a second signal from the switch mask to the power controller.

Claim 28 (New): A method as defined in claim 15, wherein:

when the switch mask is set to power-off enabled, a first signal is generated by the switch mask and supplied to a power controller for a duration of the generating of the power-off signal; and

when the switch mask is set to override enabled, a second signal is

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generated by the switch mask and supplied to the power controller after generating the power-off signal continuously for a delay time period.